

Q2 Maintenance against a trouble in an industrial equipment requiring

maintenance, such as a semiconductor device manufacturing apparatus has been made such that, upon occurrence of a trouble, maintenance personnel instruct a countermeasure to an operator for the manufacturing apparatus through telephone or facsimile communication or directly visit a factory where the manufacturing apparatus is installed. This also applies to periodical maintenance.

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 2, line 24 and ending page 3, line 12, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Q3 Another aspect is attained by providing a monitor apparatus arranged on an industrial equipment side to constitute a remote maintenance system for maintaining an industrial equipment installed at a remote location, comprising, obtaining means for detecting occurrence of a trouble of one or a plurality of industrial equipments and obtaining status information representing a state of the trouble, and communication means for notifying, through the internet, a management apparatus for performing centralized maintenance management of the industrial equipment of status information obtained by the obtaining means, and for receiving response information sent from the management apparatus through the internet in response to notification of the status information.

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 13, line 2 and ending at line 5 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

~~If, however, a countermeasure is required (i.e., "YES" in step S402), the~~

Q4 person in charge selects an appropriate countermeasure by looking up the information stored in the trouble database (step S403).--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 17, line 5 and ending at line 20, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached

Q5 ~~Fig. 7 is a conceptual view of an industrial equipment maintenance system~~
according to the second embodiment of the present invention. In the first embodiment, the plurality of user factories each having the industrial equipment are connected to the management system for the vendor for the industrial equipment through a communicating means, and the maintenance information of the industrial equipment of each factory is communicated through the communicating means. However, in the second embodiment, a factory having industrial equipments of a plurality of vendors is connected to the management systems of the vendors for the plurality of industrial equipments through a communicating means using the internet, thereby communicating maintenance information of each industrial equipment through the communicating means.--

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 08/902,160 which was filed on July 29, 1997.

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 16, 18, 21 and 28